

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02558 212141Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 EB-08

TRSE-00 /046 W

-----110235 220114Z /72

R 212105Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 02558

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS:ECON, EEWT, UR

SUBJECT:VIEWS OF ALKHIMOV OF GOSBANK

REF: (A) STATE 40163, (B) MOSCOW 1749, (C) MOSCOW 866

1. KUZMIN'S STATEMENT THAT NEED TO BUY AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN 1977 PRECLUDED PURCHASE OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS REMINDED US OF ASSERTION MADE BY ALKHIMOV TO SENATOR STEVENSON (REF C) THAT USSR WOULD HAVE PURCHASED MORE NON-AGRICULTURAL GOODS FROM THE WEST BUT FOR THE NEED TO BUY GRAIN.

2. IT IS TRUE THAT ALKHIMOV, WHILE SPEAKING TO SENATOR STEVENSON, ALSO CLAIMED SOVIET TRADE WITH THE WEST WOULD HAVE BEEN IN BALANCE BUT FOR THE GRAIN PURCHASES. THIS ARGUES THAT THESE PURCHASES WERE PRIMARILY IN ADDITION RATHER THAN A SUBSTITUTION FOR PLANNED NON-AGRICULTURAL PURCHASES, AS WAS CERTAINLY THE CASE FOLLOWING THE 1975 GRAIN DISASTER. IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS - WHILE ALKHIMOV HAS BEEN HEAD OF THE STATE BANK - THE SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE FOLLOWED A VERY CAUTIOUS POLICY AIMED AT HOLDING DOWN THE GROWTH OF HARD CURRENCY INDEBTEDNESS. ACCORDING TO ALKHIMOV, IT IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF A CENTRAL BANKER TO BE "STUBBORN" AND EXERCISE "DISCIPLINE" OVER CLAIMS ON RESOURCES. WE DO NOT MEAN THAT ALKHIMOV (OR SOVIET

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02558 212141Z

GOVERNMENT) PURSUES A MECHANICAL POLICY WHICH SUBSTITUTES GRAIN FOR MACHINERY ON ONE-TO-ONE BASIS, BUT GIVE HIS VIEWS AND HIS RECORD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE BANK AND IN LIGHT OF EXISTING SOVIET DEBT, WE BELIEVE THAT SIGNIFICANT GRAIN PURCHASES NOW WOULD HAVE IMPACT ON SOVIET DECISIONS TO BUY OR DEFER PURCHASE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT. MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, EAST WEST TRADE, PROCUREMENT, COMMODITIES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, ECONOMIC TRENDS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW02558  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780079-0098  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780233/aaaabbnl.tel  
**Line Count:** 62  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** dffc60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 40163, 78 MOSCOW 1749, 78 MOSCOW 866  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3536748  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIEWS OF ALKHIMOV OF GOSBANK  
**TAGS:** ECON, EEWT, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dffc60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014